(b) if so, what are the names of the private sector companies which are going to be entrusted with the work; and

(c) what will be the cost of the LPG cylinders after its introduction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Under the parallel marketing system private parties have been allowed to market Kerosene and LPG using/setting up their own bottling and distribution net-work for sale of such products at market determined prices under their own terms, for which they do not need to obtain any licence from the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas. However, they are required to obtain necessary clearances from statutory authorities, local bodies, etc., as applicable. A number of private parties have issued advertisements offering to import and sell kerosene and LPG. The prices will be determined of market forces and competition.

राजस्थान में गैस भण्डारों के स्थान और उनका उपयोग

2901. श्री शिवचरण सिंह: क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) देश में प्राकृतिक गैस के कितने भंडार हैं और राजस्थान में किन-किन स्थानों पर गैस-भण्डारों का पता लगाया गया है;

(ख) राजस्थान के रामगढ़ घोटारु क्षेत्र से निकाली गैस का उपयोग किस तरह किया जाता है;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि गैस पर आधारित ऊर्जा उत्पादन के लिए गैस की जरूरत पड़ रही है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस उद्देश्य की पूर्ति के लिए गैस जारी न किये जाने के क्या कारण हैं; और

(ङ) घोटारु क्षेत्र से निकलने वाली गैस का उपयोग कब से शुरू किए जाने की संभावना है; यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (कैप्टन सतीश शर्मा): (क) राजस्थान राज्य के तनोत-डंडेवाला, घोटारु, बखरी-तिब्बा, मनहेरा तिब्बा, खरता और बंकिया में गैस क्षेत्रों का पता चला है।

(ख) से (ङ) गैस में बहुत कम हाइड्रोकार्बन तत्व के कारण इसके उपयोग में समस्याओं की वजह से फिलहाल घोटारु से गैस उत्पादित करने की कोई योजना नहीं है।

Selection of Companies for Developing Oil and Gas Field

2902. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the process of selecting companies for developing oil and gas fields has been completed;

(b) if so, which are the companies finalised and what are the terms and conditions on which selection has been done; and

(c) by when the work is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Proposals for award of contracts for the small-sized fields and in respect of the medium-sized fields are under finalisation.

(c) Work will commence after the signing of the contracts.

Alleged Messing up of Selection of Pipe Coaters by ONGC

2903. SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) has jeopardised the implementation of second South Bassein-Hazira gas pipeline by messing up the selection of pipe-coaters to accommodate a non-responsive bidder affiliated to an influential media growth;

(b) whether it is a fact that the implementation of this trunk pipeline has become uncertain following an interim order issued by the Calcutta High Court restraining ONGC from issuing letter of credit or awarding a Rs. 200-crore contract for pipe coating;

(c) whether it is a fact that any further delay in the project will adversely affect the gas-based industries set-up alongwith HBJ pipeline; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the root cause of the dispute is ONGC's failure to incorporate clear-cut criteria for prequalifying the bidders and its tendency to change the tender conditions, if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. the interim orders of Calcutta High Court have since been vacated.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

Letter of intent by ONGC to Hyundai of South Korea

2904. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH:
SHRI SINGH PRIYA GAUTAM:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that ONGC has placed a letter of intent on Hyundai on South Korea involving $ 200 million in a contract for Bassein-Hazira trunk gas pipeline, if so, what are th details of this international competitive bidding;

(b) whether it is also a fact that McDermott international has complained to the Finance Minister about the evaluation of bids by ONGC; and

(c) what steps are being taken by the Finance Ministry to intervene and solve the issue, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) ONGC has awarded contract to the lowest bidder viz. HHI-OHI Consortium for laying Bassein-Hazira trunk gas pipeline. The contract was awarded on the basis of a global tender in accordance with the ADB guidelines.

(b) and (c) A report is being sent to the Ministry of Finance.

Revision on Rates of Royalty on Crude Oil and Natural Gas

2905. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) when is the next revision of rates of "Royalty" on crude oil and natural gas due;

(b) what will be the revised rates; and

(c) when are the revised rates likely to be brought into effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The rate of royalty will be due for revision for the block period of 1993—96. The revised rates to be arrived at will be known only after the well-head price of oil for this period becomes available and will come into effect after they are so notified.

Target of Import for Petroleum Products

2906. SHRI IQBAL SINGH:
SHRIMATI ILA PANDA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount spent on the import of crude oil and petroleum products during the last three years;